

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 DIWY-01 PA-01 INR-07 OES-03 CU-02

/031 W

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R 011545Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO USIA WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2394

USUN NEW YORK 1017

AMCONSUL DURBAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PRETORIA 2895

USIAC

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS:

SUBJECT: IWY - GRHAMSTOWN MEETING

REFERENCE: (A) USUN 3306; (B) PRETORIA 2660; (C) USIA 12255 (NOTAL)

1. ORGANIZERS OF WOMEN'S CONFERENCE GRAHAMSTOWN IN DECEMBER HAVE REQUESTED POST ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING RESPONSE FROM AMERICAN INVITEES BARBARA WHITE, BARBARA WATSON, PATRICIA LINDH AND CARMEN MAYMI, EACH OF WHOM REPORTEDLY WAS INVITED TO CONFERENCE BY LETTER DATED JUNE 16. REITERATING THAT NEITHER IT NOR AGENCY HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THESE INVITEES ABOUT GRAHAMSTOWN CONFERENCE, POST PROMISED TO ADVISE AGENCY OF INQUIRY, BUT SUGGESTED DIRECT COMMUNICATION BY ORGANIZERS WITH INVITEES WOULD OFFER FASTER CHANNEL FOR PROVIDING RESPONSE TO INVITATIONS. AGENCY MAY WISH TO PASS TO THESE FOUR INVITEES WORD OF ORGANIZERS' INQUIRY TOGETHER WITH FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION POST HAS DEVELOPED CONCERNING CONFERENCE.

2. INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION OF EMINENT WOMEN TO BE HELD IN GRAHAMSTOWN DECEMBER 15 IS SOUTH AFRICA'S ONLY OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZED CONTRIBUTION TO INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR. IT IS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BEING ORGANIZED BY SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF 1820 SETTLERS NATIONAL

MONUMENT FOUNDATION. NAMES OF ORGANIZING COMMITTEE ARE:
DR. J.M. HYSLOP, VICE-CHANCELLOR, RHODES UNIVERSITY, CHAIRMAN;
MRS. THELMA HENDERON, JOHANNESBURG; MRS. ADELE LUCAS, P.R.O.
FOR SUTHERN SUNS HOTEL GROUP, JOHANNESBURG; MRS. GORRY
BOWES-TAYLOR - ARGUS WOMEN EDITOR, CAPE TOWN; MRS. JEAN JOLOBE,
UMTATA. MEMBERS OF THE MONUMENT FOUNDATION STAFF: MR. R.J.
MCFARLANE - ACTING DIRECTOR; MR. M. ST. QUINTIN; MRS. T. NEVILLE -
FOUNDATION LIAISON OFFICER; AND MRS. I. BASELGA.

3. ORGANIZERS LIST FOLLOWING AMONG PATRONS OF CONFERENCE:
MARGARET THATCHER, LEADER OF CONSERVATIVE PARTY IN BRITAIN;
ALSO SOUTH AFRICANS, PROF. ERIKA THERON, DR. NICO MALAN AND
PROF. CHRIS BARNARD.

4. REGISTRATION FEE: R20.00. CONCERTS, EVENING SPECIAL LECTURES,
HISTORICAL TOURS, ETC., ADDITIONAL CHARGE.

5. HOTEL ACCOMMODATION LIMITED AND RANGES FROM R7 - R12 PER
DAY. FEW SINGLE ROOMS AVAILABLE. ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE AT
UNIVERSITY RESIDENCE, SMUTS HALL - R7 PER DAY, KIMBERLY HALL -
R8 PER DAY. TIPPING, GRATUITIES, LAUNDRY, TEAS AND SOME MEALS
EXTRA.

6. GUEST OF HONOR AND SPEAKERS ARE OFFERED FIRST CLASS RETURN
AIR FARE FROM CITY OF RESIDENCE AS WELL AS FIRST CLASS TRAVEL
TROUGHTOUT SOUTH AFRICA FOR TOURING BEFORE OR AFTER CONFERENCE
COMPLETELY FREE OF ANY CHARGE.

7. S.A. WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPANTS
REQUESTED TO ASSIST WITH SPONSORSHIP OF DELEGATES UNABLE TO
AFFORD TO ATTEND.

8. TWO EMINENT AMERICAN WOMEN HAVE ACCEPTED INVITATION -
PROFESSOR MARGARET MEAD AND CAPTAIN JACQUELIN COCHRANE.
ACCEPTED INVITATIONS FROM SOUTH AFRICANS INCLUDE: PROG. M.P.
HELEN SUZMAN, JUSTICE LEONORA VAN DEN HEEVER, COL. HILDA BOTHA,
MS. DENNIS WORRAL (WIFE OF NAT. SENATOR), DR. HARRIET SIBISI
(PH.D. CAMBRIDGE; NOW LIVES IN BRITAIN AND ABOUT TO ASUME
LECTURESHIP IN SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY AT UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH.
HUSBAND IS LECTURER IN EDUCATION ADMINISTRATION AND DIDACTICS
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AT UNIVERSITY OF ZULULAND).

9. DR. PHILLIPA CLARK, CO-FOUNDER OF FEMINIST GROUP "WOMEN IN
ACTION", SENIOR LECTURER IN PSYCHOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF NATAL,
DURBAN, AND COMMITTEE MEMBER OF IWY NATAL COMMITTEE HAS DECIDED
TO ATTEND IN HER PERSONAL CAPACITY. KWA MASHU TOWN COUNCILLOR
AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WORKER, MRS. ALBERTINA MNGUNI HAS
ACCEPTED ON GROUNDS OF HER PHILOSOPHY "DIALOGUE AT EVERY LEVEL

IMPORTANT FOR UNDERSTANDING".

10. MS. FATIMA MEER, SENIOR LECTURER IN SOCIOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF NATAL, DURBAN, CHAIRPERSON OF INFLUENTIAL BLACK WOMEN'S FEDERATION AND PROMINENT SPOKESPERSON FOR BLACK CAUSES HAS DECLINED INVITATION TO DELIVER PAPER ON ATTEND ON GROUNDS OF ELITIST AND EXCLUSIVE NATURE OF CONFERENCE. FEELS WITH PRESSING ISSUES FACING SOUTH AFRICAN WOMEN, MONEY COULD BE BETTER UTILIZED AT A GRASS-ROOT LEVEL. SHE ASSERTS THAT BLACK ATTENDANCE COULD CREATE FALSE IMPRESSION OF S.A. SITUATION TO OVERSEAS DELEGATES. ALSO GOVERNMENT SUPPORT OF CONFERENCE AND OFFICIAL OPENING BY MRS. VORSTER, WIFE OF SAG PRIME MINISTER, WOULD PLACE BLACK DELEGATES IN INVIDIOUS POSITIONS WITH REGARD TO THEIR OWN STAND CONCERNING POLITICS OF S.A. PROMINENT WHITE AUTHOR NADINE GORDIMER AND BLACK LAWYER ZUBIE SEEDAT HAVE ALSO DECLINED TO ATTEND.

11. INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR COMMITTEE NATAL HAS NOT YET DECIDED WHETHER TO SEND OFFICIAL DELEGATE. ADDRESSING IWYN IN DURBAN LAST WEEK, DR. SIBISI FELT DELEGATES OF ALL RACE GROUPS SHOULD CONSIDER ATTENDING DESPITE RESERVATIONS RAISED, AS CONFERENCE COULD PROVIDE THEM WITH PLATFORM TO HIGHLIGHT GRIEVANCES, DISCRIMINATION AND CAUSES OF CONCERN. IWYN WILL HAVE TO CHOOSE BETWEEN OPINIONS PRESENTED BY SIBISI AND MEER. AT THIS STAGE IT SEEMS PROBABLE THAT VOTE WILL GO AGAINST SENDING OFFICIAL DELEGATE.

12. FURTHER INFORMATION WILL BE FORWARDED AS IT BECOMES AVAILABLE.
PETERSON

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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